



Main freshwater viral diseases

Andrea Marsella, DVM

National Reference Laboratory for fish diseases

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Legnaro, Italy









VIRAL HAEMORRAGIC SEPTICAEMIA (VHS) & INFECTIOUS HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS (IHN)

VHS

- Novirhabdovirus within Rhabdoviridae family
- Enveloped
- 70x180 nm
- ssRNA negative sense (11-12 kbp)



IHN

- Salmonivirus within Rhabdoviridae family
- Enveloped
- 65-75x150-190 nm
- ssRNA negative sense (11-12 kbp)



VIRAL HAEMORRAGIC SEPTICAEMIA (VHS) & INFECTIOUS HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS (IHN)

✤ VHS

IHN



- Listed disease according to EU 2016/429 regulation and WOAH notifiable disease
- Infect more than 80 fish species (both freshwater and saltwater)
- Oncorhynchus mykiss is the target species

- Listed disease according to EU 2016/429 regulation and WOAH notifiable disease
- ▶ Infect mainly salmonids and northern pike (*Esox lucius*)
- Oncorhynchus mykiss is the target species

CLINICAL SIGNS

- Lethargy
- ✤ Anorexia
- Abnormal swimming
- Darkening
- Gathering at the water outlet
- High mortality (juveniles are more susceptible)
 - Size effect on IHN progression
 - Except that in small juveniles, IHN cause generally a prolonged mortality



For IHN, field and experimental evidences suggest that disease can occur at higher water temperature (close to 20°C)





GROSS PATHOLOGY

2 different anatomopathological pictures



- Pale gills and internal organs
- > Splenomegaly

- - ➢ Ifema
 - Petechiae in the muscles, visceral fat tissue, liver, hearth and swim bladder
 - > Splenomegaly



 IHN can cause skeletal deformities in surviving juveniles

Some mixing of features may occur

KOI HERPESVIRUS (KHV) & CARP EDEMA VIRUS (CEV)

✤ KHV

- Also known as CyHV-3
- dsDNA virus belonging to Alloherpesviridae
- Enveloped icosahedral virus with 115-130 nm capsid

Notifiable according to WOAH legislation

- Infect only Cyprinus carpio species
- Many asymptomatic vector species (crucian carp, grass carp, silver carp, bighead carp, tench)
- World wide distribution
- Except larvae, all life stages are susceptibles



CEV

- Also known as koi sleepy disease (KSD)
- Caused by a poxvirus, enveloped DNA virus, 300-400 X 250-400 nm
- Infect only Cyprinus carpio species
- Bleak, crucian carp, european perch, prussian carp, roach and tench can be vectors
- Mortality ranging from 10-80% depending on water temperature



KOI HERPESVIRUS (KHV) & CARP EDEMA VIRUS (CEV)

✤ KHV

✤ CEV





Literature reports



8

CLINICAL SIGNS



- ✤ Lethargy
- Anorexia
- Abnormal swimming
- Dyspnea /gasping
- Gathering at water inlet/aeration device
- Excessive mucous production on skin and gills
- High mortality





2018 KHVD outbreaks in Iraq caused the loss of more than 2 milions common carp



340 adult common carp (weight range= 3-18 kgs) died following a CEV outbreak in Italy in 2020

GROSS PHATOLOGY



Enophthalmus (sunken eye)





Skin hypermucosity



Gill necrosis & ipermucosity



 Hyperemia and inflammation of internal organs

ACIPENSER IRIDOVIRUS (AcIV) & ACIPENSER HERPESVIRUS (AcHV)



✤ AcIV

- Mimivirus (formerly classified as Iridovirus)
- Considered very resistant in the environment
- World wide spread (names changes according to the lineage and the affected sturgeon species)
- Infecting all Acipenser spp. but Russian sturgeon appears the most susceptible species
- Survivors remain positive for long period (1 year)

AcHV



- > Alloherpesvirus
- AcHV-1 and AcHV-2 + variants
- Described mainly in A. transmontanus (AcHV-1), A. baeri (AcHV-2), hybrids
- Survivors remain carrier lifelong

Scarce informations for both diseases

ACIPENSER IRIDOVIRUS (AcIV) & ACIPENSER HERPESVIRUS (AcHV)

- Discolourations
- > Hypermucosity
- Abnormal swimming
- Gill petechiae
- High mortality



- Skin erosions
- Skin hemorrages
- Internal hemorrages
- Prolonged low level mortality



ACIPENSER IRIDOVIRUS (AcIV) & ACIPENSER HERPESVIRUS (AcHV)



- Not listed diseases
- > No surveillance plan
- > No official data, only literature reports



DIAGNOSIS

	VHS	IHN	KHV	CEV	AcIV	AcHV
Target organs	Pool of internal organs	Pool of internal organs	Gills Brain Kidney	Gills Brain Kidney	Gills Brain	Gills Brain
Isolation on cell culture	EPC/BF2	EPC/BF2	CCB	N/A	N/A	WSSK
Molecular methods	Rt-qPCR, RT-PCR	Rt-qPCR, RT-PCR	qPCR, PCR	qPCR, PCR	qPCR, PCR	qPCR, PCR







For WOAH notifiable diseases, refer to the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

14

CONTROL

- No therapy for viral diseases
- Stamping out
- Use of free broostock/ juveniles/ eggs
- High biosecurity standards and prevention measure
- Few vaccines available (DNA vaccine for IHN in canada and live attenuated vaccine for KHV)







TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Every farmed finfish species can be susceptible to different viral species, each one with specific epidemiological and diagnostic features
- Scarce informations for some viral diseases (AciV and AcHV)
- Control of viral diseases can be challenging and few prevention and mitigation tools are available
- Laboratories are essential for proper and effective diagnosis of viral diseases
- Majority of surveillance plan are targeting WOAH listed diseases but what about others?

Thank you for your attention





amarsella@izsvenezie.it